

Board of education says Premier's school drop-out rate not accurate

A very "personal" campaign has been created by the director of education who is worried about a mis-informed public, said the Halton Board of Education's communications officer.

Brian Woodland said the response to the campaign has been "incredible."

Bob Williams, the director, said he started the campaign because one morning he woke up and found the front page of a Toronto paper was all "gloom and doom" about education. "Education is given a high priority by (Halton's) parents and businesses," Mr. Williams said.

"Although this may be sounding our own horn a bit - we've got a damn good school system," he said.

The campaign consists of one flyer that has been sent around to schools in Halton correcting "common misconceptions."

About 5,000 flyers were sent out and were snapped up in three days, Mr. Woodland said. Another 5,000 were printed and received quickly. He added there are 10,000 more being printed of which one third are already committed for people.

Mr. Williams said only about eight per cent of Halton's students drop out of school. This is compared to a 30 per cent figure that even Premier David Peterson has been using, he added.

He does not know of any school board that has a 30 per cent drop-out rate. He said the figure may include students transferring schools. The students would "drop-out" of one school and go to another, he said.

The flyer states that 86 per cent of the teachers in Halton have degrees, and about 50 per cent of the teachers are teaching on let-

ters of permission. These letters allow people who do not have proper teaching credentials, but may be in the process of getting them, to teach for one year. The job must be advertised in a national paper before a person can be hired who does not have an Ontario teaching certificate.

For this school year over 2,600 applications were received for 249 available teaching positions. These "Halton facts" are an attempt to correct the misconception that Ontario faces a critical shortage of good teachers and boards are forced to hire large numbers of "un-qualified teachers" on letters of permission, Mr. Williams said.

Another misconception the flyer attempts to fight says, "the public gives school systems a failing grade."

A Halton community opinion survey taken by the board in April 1986, showed 99 per cent of the respondents gave the Halton school system "a passing grade." About 77 per cent gave the system an honors mark compared to a 1984 Canadian Education Survey where only 48 per cent passed Canadian schools with honors.



Gravel truck overturns

A 1986 Mac Truck carrying gravel southbound on Highway 25 near Sideroad 15 overbraked and spun into the east ditch after a blue car cut off the truck at 7:25 a.m. March 23. The truck was fully loaded and

had a pup trailer. Ontario Provincial Police say the car failed to remain at the scene of the accident. The 21-year-old truck driver from Mississauga was not injured. (Herald photo)

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Liability for the tax began in January. All employers with permanent establishments in Ontario are required to pay the EHT on a monthly or quarterly basis, depending on gross salaries and wages paid to employees.

Employers who are on a quarterly remittance schedule are required to make their first payment no later than April 15, 1990.

Any employers who have not yet received information or remittance statement materials from the Ministry should call any of the following numbers to avoid incurring penalties and interest for tax payments due:

- Metro Toronto 965-8470
- All other areas 1-800-263-7965
- French language enquiries 1-800-668-5821
- Renseignements en français 1-800-263-7776
- Telephone device for the deaf 1-800-263-7776



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